

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /072 W

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R 192007Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3320

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH APPEALS FOR CLEMENCY FOR CONDEMNED

BASQUE TERRORISTS IN SPAIN

REF: MADRID 6504

1. COURTS MARTIALS AND DEATH SENTENCES OF BASQUES AND OTHER TERRORISTS IN MADRID ARE AROUSING EXTENSIVE REACTIONS IN FRANCE, AS DID SEEMINGLY CURSORY NATURE OF TRIALS. SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS AND LEFTISTS OF ALL SORTS ARE VIGOROUSLY ESPOUSING CLEMENCY CAUSE IN PRESS. SEVERAL MAJOR TRADE UNIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SENT AND PUBLICIZED TELEGRAMS TO PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC ASKING HIM TO INTERVENE FOR CLEMENCY IN SPAIN. MORE EXTREME ELEMENTS EXPRESSING THEMSELVES MORE DIRECTLY BY SO FAR BLOWING UP FOUR OFFICES OF SPANISH CONTROLLED BANKS. VIOLENCE OF REACTIONS MAY WELL MOUNT IF DEATH SENTENCES ARE ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT.

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2. APPEALS FOR CLEMENCY HAVE ALSO BEEN LAUNCHED BY
QUARTERS LIKELY TO HAVE GREATER IMPACT IN MADRID. THUS,
PRESS REPORTS FRANCOISE CARDINAL MARTY HAS ISSUED APPEAL
ON BEHALF OF TEN CONDEMNED TO DEATH AND HAS COMMUNICATED
IT TO SPANISH CHURCH.

3. AN IMPORTANT NUMBER OF WELL KNOWN SENIOR GAULLISTS
HAVE TELEGRAPHED FRANCO DIRECTLY ASKING FOR COMMUTATION.

4. COMMENT: IF DEATH SENTENCE ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT,
PC IN PARTICULAR WILL TRY TO SEIZE ON ISSUE, PERHAPS
WITH CALL FOR MAJOR PROTEST STRIKE. SITUATION OF COURSE
ALSO NOT HELPING BASQUE PROBLEM IN A FRANCE ALREADY
PREOCCUPIED WITH CORSICA.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, EXECUTIONS, BASQUES, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS24335
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750326-0599
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750935/aaaabevr.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 6504
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH APPEALS FOR CLEMENCY FOR CONDEMNED BASQUE TERRORISTS IN SPAIN
TAGS: PINT, SP, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006